

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Jersey City to Celebrate the 26th Anniversary Of National Night Out Against Crime

***The Jersey City Police Department Will Join Residents in an Effort to
Fight for Safer Streets and Communities***

JERSEY CITY—On Tuesday August 4, 2009, Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy the Municipal Council and the **Community Relations Unit of the Jersey City Police Department** will host the **25th Anniversary of National Night Out**, a crime prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). Events will take place simultaneously, from **6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** in parks located in the four police districts: **Pershing Field** in the North, **Audubon Park** in the South, **Enos Jones Park** in the East, and **Arlington Park** in the West.

National Night Out is celebrated by citizens, law enforcement agencies, community groups, businesses and local officials in more than 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

“Keeping our neighborhoods safe and peaceful is of utmost priority,” said **Mayor Healy**. “In order to this, it is crucial that both our police officers and residents work together to protect our community and keep our children safe. This event is a great way for neighbors to get to know one another, meet our police officers, and obtain information on City services.”

Mayor Healy will visit National Night Out locations to commend and acknowledge those individuals and groups who are providing invaluable services and resources to their community.

Each year, National Night Out encourages neighbors to come together, get acquainted, and have a fun-filled safe night to foster neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. There will be hotdogs, popcorn, bubble machines, clowns, balloons, refreshments, and plenty of entertainment, games, moonbounces and giveaways in each park. Various community and service organizations will be on hand to provide information to the public.

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In the East district at **Enos Jones Park**, Target, NNO National sponsor, will be present along with **92.3 WNEW, Grove Street Bicycle Shop, 9 Lives Skate Shop**, and the **US Air Force**. Present at **Audubon Park**, will be **Fuze Drinks, a live DJ , table games, basketball games**, and the **US Marines**.

At **Pershing Field** in the Heights, there will be live entertainment and dance performances by the **Jang Star Tae Kwon Do, Family Fitness Martial Arts, Hope Center**, and the **US Navy**. In **Arlington Park**, there will be a live **DJ , table games, basketball games**, and the **US Army**.

At **9p.m.**, Jersey City residents are encouraged to participate in **National Night Out** by **turning on their home or porch lights**. Churches are asked to **ring their bells** as a gesture of unity to support and promote safety in their neighborhoods.

Mayor Healy has always been a strong proponent of reducing crime and promoting safer streets. **Mayor Healy's Operation Lifesaver**, a gun buy-back and amnesty program, removed almost 900 guns off the streets. In conjunction with the Jersey City Police Department, the Mayor created the city's first **Anti-Gang Task Force**, as well as the **Senior Care Card Program** and the **Senior Police Academy** spearheaded by the **Community Relations Unit**. Other crime and safety initiatives supported by the Mayor include enforcing the business curfew, increasing the number of **Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV)** in areas of high crime, and putting back police officers on foot and bike patrol.

The Community Relations Unit (CRU) is assigned to improving the effectiveness of the Police Department by facilitating a cooperative effort between the police and the community through various city-wide programs and services. **National Night Out** is one of the Community Relations Unit's most notable events. It heightens crime-prevention awareness and generates support for anti-crime programs.

Other CRU projects include the Senior Citizen Police Academy, Community Engagement Consortium, the Jersey City PAL partnership, Otto the Auto Child Safety Program, Bridging the Gap, gang awareness, and police recruitment.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///